



Motorcycle Safety

Accident Prevention:

Accidents can be reduced, or at times prevented, by choosing the correct motorcycle, having the proper equipment and training. Training and equipment requirements are found in DODI 6055.4, and Appendix B of AR 385-55. Riding skills are learned; therefore attendance in a Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) approved course should be the first step for all riders.

Personal Protective Equipment

Properly fitted and functional PPE makes riding more comfortable and much safer. High visibility PPE is required by the military and preferred in all cases.

Helmet

There are two organizations setting safety standards for motorcycle helmets in the United States, the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Snell Memorial Foundation. DOT sets minimum standards that all helmets sold for motorcycling on public streets must meet. Helmets are required by DODI 6055.4, para E3.2.7.1.1. and AR 385-55 Appendix B-3, d. must meet DOD standards at a minimum. Helmets are the single most important item of PPE

Eye Protection

Eye protection is required by DODI 6055.4 para E3.2.7.1.2. and Army Regulation 385-55, Appendix B-3,e.

Jacket

A high-visibility upper garment is required by day and a retro-reflective garment is required at night IAW DODI 6055.4 para E3.2.7.1.5. and Army Regulation 385-55, Appendix B-3,e.

Pants

Pants are required to cover the entire leg IAW DODI 6055.4 para E3.2.7.1.4. and Army Regulation 385-55, Appendix B-3,e.

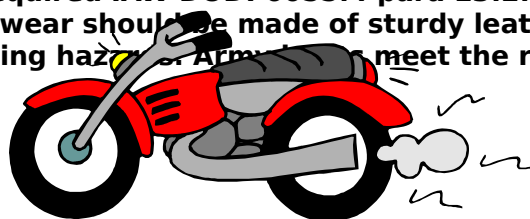
Most motorcyclists prefer pants that are similar to their jackets and some are available that zip together. Pants should provide the same protection against abrasion as jackets.

Gloves

Closed-finger gloves are required by DODI 6055.4 para E3.2.7.1.4. and Army Regulation 385-55, Appendix B-3,e. The intent is to protect the riders fingers from strikes from flying objects. The Glove should be made for motorcycle use. Gloves that are not for motorcycle use provide less grip and protection.

Boots

Over-the-ankle footwear is required IAW DODI 6055.4 para E3.2.7.1.3. and Army Regulation 385-55, Appendix B-3,e. Footwear should be made of sturdy leather and have a good oil-resistant sole to reduce slipping hazard. Footwear must meet the requirement.



Motorcycle Safety (Cont)

Legal Responsibility

- Keep in mind you represent the Army at all times on and off duty. Driving is a privilege, so you must prove competence to be licensed. If you are reckless or ignore the rules you can lose your privilege. Laws are not intended to harass you; they are intended to improve safety by keeping incompetent people off the road.
- Most states require riders to either have an endorsement to their automobile license or a separate motorcycle license. In most states the Department of Motor Vehicles will have a Web site listing the requirements for a rider to get a license. Soldiers must comply with state and local requirements as well as those of the Army.
- Army motor vehicle registration policies apply to motorcycles IAW DODI 6055.4 and Appendix B AR 385-55, as do state and local regulations.
- State registration should not be a problem if you follow all local laws and pay the license plate and registration fees.
- Insurance costs may vary drastically. Some providers may give discounts for MSF training while others may not. Shop around, it may save you money. A good driving record always saves you money when purchasing insurance, so be safe.

DRUGS, ALCOHOL, and MOTORCYCLES. DO NOT DO IT!! IS THAT SIMPLE ENOUGH?

Alcohol and over-the-counter drugs affect your judgment and reaction time. As a rider you cannot afford either to be impaired because bad judgment will get you into trouble and a slowed reaction time may get you killed. This area is primed to make or break your riding career. Remember—fun or fatal.

Motorcycles have evolved a great deal in recent years and continue to change. The changes usually represent an improvement in handling, function, and, often, in safety. Motorists are constantly changing, as are automobiles. And while the mechanical factors have typically improved, the same can't be said for the human factors. Based on this information you cannot know all there is to know about riding. To enjoy riding don't be foolish; be properly clothed, well trained, informed, and safe.

